

WASHINGTON – Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA), the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, released the following statement after President Barack Obama delivered a speech to the nation on Libya.

"Tonight President Obama offered a clear explanation of why military action in Libya was essential. I support the President for taking action to prevent a humanitarian crisis, and I applaud our servicemembers who put themselves in harms way to carry out this mission. An international coalition including the United States, NATO and the Arab League all agreed that we could not sit on our hands while Qaddafi massacred his own people, and I am glad that this mission has been successful.

"NATO has already taken over responsibility for enforcing the 'no fly zone,' and I am pleased that the U.S. will hand over responsibility for protecting the Libyan people to NATO on Wednesday. I hope that President Obama will continue to consult and inform Congress as the mission in Libya progresses."

###